

## LAUNDRIES ARE HELLS SAYS WOMAN STRIKER

**25,000 Girls are out Today in New York and there will be 20,000 More by Tomorrow Night—Girls Forced to Work Under Fearful Conditions. Dressing Rooms are Exposed to the men—Pay Miserably Small.**

New York, Jan. 2.—New York City today is facing a clean linen famine. Already 25,000 laundry workers have gone out on strike, 10,000 more will go out before night and by tomorrow night it is more than probable 45,000 workers will have obeyed the general strike order closing down 600 steam laundries and 15,000 hand laundries in Greater New York alone. That the strike, if prolonged, will shortly involve up-state and New Jersey cities, was the declaration today of William Armour, in charge of the strike.

Steamship lines, railroad companies, hotels and restaurants today began complaining over their failure to secure quick return of their soiled linens. Several hundred thousand householders were notified that no promises of speedy work could be made.

The strikers declared they were confident of winning shortly. Strikebreakers, they say, can not take their places, because the claims against the laundries for linens torn and burned by inexperienced hands would cause too great financial losses.

**Laundries Are Hells.**  
"I have never read Upton Sinclair's book, 'The Jungle.' If he had worked in New York laundries, he would have called them 'The Hell,' said Margaret Hinchey, who has worked for more than twenty years in the hand and steam laundries of New York. Above the ordinary intelligence, keenly observant, she had risen to a position of forewoman. She walked out with 15,000 other laundry workers and became the 'Joan of Arc' of the laundry strike.

"I hate to see this strike come," she added, "for I know what suffering it is going to bring to thousands of poor girls whose wages have been so meager they can not even make both ends meet."

"But it has to come and we are willing to suffer because we know we are right; we are going to improve conditions for ourselves and for the thousands of poor girls who will come after us."

**Offices Scrupulously Clean.**  
"People who take their clothes to laundries never get any cleaner to us than the tile-walled, scrupulously clean offices they never hear of the hell back there in which we work."

"We get to work at 7 in the morning and have to work until 7 o'clock at night; we get only a half hour for lunch. When there is over-time work to be done, we are forced to stay as long as we are told; we get nothing extra for this work."

"The state factory inspectors recently made the laundries put in chairs—but today you find these chairs stacked up in corners; why, it would be worth a girl's job to sit in one."

"We work in superheated rooms filled with steam. The air is filled with millions of minute particles of dirt, torn from the things we are laundering. Tuberculosis is the commonest disease among the girls."

"I know of no laundry in New York with a decent dressing room."

**Women's Rooms Exposed to Men.**  
"Most of the rooms for women are so exposed that men look into them."

In many laundries men and women use a joint dressing room. Is it any wonder some girls are driven to immorality? Our wash-rooms and toilets, in nearly every New York laundry are also exposed to the gaze of the men workers.

"Most of the laundries are fire traps; God only knows how many poor girls will die if they ever catch fire."

"Seventy-five per cent. of the laundry workers in New York are women. The average girl earns between \$4 and \$5 a week. In case a girl is injured in the machinery, it is seldom she ever gets damages; some times the laundries will pay hospital expenses."

"If a girl loses a day, she is docked. Girls can not live on \$5 a week, pay board, dress themselves—and keep decent. Today we are fighting for morality as well as for life. A girl can not work steadily in a laundry her health will not permit it."

**HEAT IN SUMMER TERRIBLE.**  
"In summer, these laundries are described by only one word, hell! The natural heat is intensified by the terrible heat of steam. I have seen poor, hungry-looking, emaciated girls reel and fall against their machines and then crumple up, fainting, to the floor."

"Let me tell you about little Dora Farlow. She fainted that way one day and let her hands get mashed in a mangle. She lost all of one hand; part of the other. She got not one cent of damages. When she was discharged from the hospital, she was given her position back, and with half a hand compelled to do the same work she did before she was hurt. When she laid off a day for sickness, her wages were cut."

"I have heard superintendents swear at girls as if they were slaves."

**State Inspection of Factories means Hell.** Some of the inspectors are honest. When an honest inspector comes around, he is detained in the office until things are made presentable in the work rooms. Chairs are hastily dragged out of the corners—and that's the only time we ever get to sit down at our work."

**CHILD LABOR LAWS VIOLATED.**  
"The child labor laws are violated. Girls not more than thirteen or fourteen years old, work in almost every laundry in New York."

"Why, I worked in a laundry once where they employed such small children that one day a boy of ten years hid under my skirts when the inspectors appeared."

"We demand that our hours be cut from twelve and fourteen hours to ten hours daily, and that we be paid for over-time. We demand that the managers and the other cruel machinery be safeguarded."

"We demand that our wages be raised from fifteen to twenty per cent., so that the girls can remain good and pure even if poor. This wage increase won't hurt the laundries. They make big profits. Why, only a short time ago laundry prices in New York were raised—and our wages were actually cut."

"We demand that children be kept out of these hell-shops. We have reports from every city in America and in no city are conditions as bad as they are right here in New York."

## ROOSEVELT WORKING WITH SEN. LA FOLLETTE

**Demands that Former Eliminate Himself as Political Factor Come From Reactionaries.**

Cleveland, Jan. 2.—A Washington dispatch to the Cleveland Press from its correspondent, Gilson Gardner, today says:

La Follette and Roosevelt are working in harmony to control the next Republican national convention. Between them they will have enough Progressive delegates to write the platform and name the candidate. La Follette is, and will remain, the candidate. Roosevelt's position has been announced too often to need repetition. Roosevelt favors La Follette and is not a candidate himself. He declines to eliminate himself as a political factor. The only people who want Roosevelt to eliminate himself as a political factor, are the stand-pat reactionaries who are still clinging

desperately to the fortunes of Taft. The Roosevelt-La Follette combination is certain to sweep the boards. Reports that La Follette has been eliminated are circulated by the White House. There is no foundation for them. The friends of Taft are coming to realize that the La Follette candidacy with Roosevelt's influence back of it and Roosevelt himself in the background, will be too powerful to withstand. The only development which now appears to be logical is a formal announcement from the White House that Taft has decided to make the fight.

**MAY MAKE STATEMENT.**  
Kalamazoo, Mich., Jan. 2.—Battered by reports that his presidential campaign is really in the interests of Colonel Roosevelt, Senator La Follette today declared he is considering issuing a formal statement defining his position, possibly tomorrow. Today he will hold a conference at the Chicago headquarters of the Progressive Republican league and decide if such an announcement should be made.

Members of the La Follette stamping party here today, indignantly deny that La Follette is a Roosevelt ally. They say he is a Roosevelt

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## LAFOLLETTE HAS NOTHING TO SAY

**Refuses to Comment on Address of Governor Osborn.**

**MICHIGAN POLITICS ON EDGE**

**Unexpected Utterance of Governor May Prove Boomerang.**

**Regular Republicans Think Trap Was Laid Deliberately.**

**Expected La Follette Would Make Reply Last Night But Osborn is Not Mentioned—Holds Principles, Not Men, Are the Issue.**

Grand Rapids, Mich., Jan. 2.—Senator Robert M. La Follette, starting on the last day of his Michigan tour, early today, refused to make any comment on the address of Governor Charles E. Osborn at Lansing yesterday when Osborn invited La Follette and Taft to withdraw from the race for the Republican presidential nomination.

La Follette will make no reply. He refuses also to comment on the governor's suggestion that the way be cleared for ex-President Roosevelt or former Senator A. J. Beveridge. La Follette's friends in this state today feel that his candidacy has been strengthened by what they characterize as the peculiar and vitriolic personal attack of Governor Osborn. The manner of its utterance, at a meeting planned for La Follette and in La Follette's absence, are the points insisted upon by the Progressives as making the situation distinctly favorable to the Wisconsin senator.

All political interests of the state have been set on edge by the incident. Many who have not been identified with the La Follette campaign have expressed fears that Osborn's action may prove a boom-Continued on page two.

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## IT'S OUTRAGE SAYS SANDLES

**Denounces Whole Anti-Harmon Movement in Ohio.**

**Says Governor Has Made Magnificent Showing.**

**Has Made Over Ohio From Republican into Democratic State.**

Columbus, O., Jan. 3.—A statement characterizing the anti-Harmon movement in Ohio as a "damnable outrage," was issued today by A. P. Sandles, secretary of the Ohio department of agriculture, after he had conferred with Governor Harmon.

The statement is intended to represent the views of the friends of the governor. The governor himself had nothing to say for publication, concerning the meeting in Columbus yesterday that resulted in the organization of the Progressive Democratic League of Ohio, the avowed object of which is to fight the governor for the presidential nomination.

Sandles' statement is as follows: "I note my name in the list of those present at the so-called anti-Harmon meeting held in Columbus January 2nd. I was there—not as an anti-Harmon Democrat, however."

"Governor Harmon has done nothing to disgrace the Democratic party since he carried Ohio by 106,000 in 1910. Governor Harmon stood with both feet upon the Democratic platform made by his party in the Dayton state convention. He used all his efforts to carry out every pledge in it. That platform had the approval of many of the men who now complain that the governor is not progressive."

"No state in the union ever enacted so much progressive legislation in so short a time as did Ohio, under the second administration of Governor Harmon. His popularity with the Ohio voters gave both branches of the legislature to the Democrats. His popularity carried the entire state ticket to victory. His leadership gave

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## "TRUSTS DON'T PAY" BRANDEIS

**Great Combinations Are Not Economically Efficient.**

**STEEL TRUST AN EXAMPLE**

**Has Lost Control of 20 per cent of Its Markets.**

**Exports Increase Little While Other Countries Show Big Gain.**

Chicago, Jan. 2.—Louis D. Brandeis, of Boston, today explained to the Chicago newspapers why he favored Robert La Follette for president.

"The trust problem," he said, "is the greatest of the day. La Follette knows this problem by heart. He has never theorized about it. He has always by tremendous work, and with the aid of a marvelous memory, secured cold facts about the evils of trusts. He has dug down to bed rock in the trust matter, and in a cold, business-like analytical way, he has discovered the truth about them."

Speaking at a luncheon at the Grand Pacific hotel at noon, Brandeis said: "Trusts don't pay. Great combinations are not economically efficient. They are too big; in spite of their size, the limit of their ability is the limit of man and some of them have become so large that they have outgrown the ability of their leaders. The steel trust, for instance, isn't efficient. Its only marked successes have in instances where it has made a great success because, on its directorate were men who represented over half of the railway mileage of the United States. The steel trust has lost control of twenty per cent. of its market, if you include such additions as Tennessee Coal & Iron, since its birth. Its business has been constantly ebbing away to independents except in cases where it had a monopoly."

During the life of the steel trust its exports have increased only half a million tons, while the exports of both Germany and England have increased tremendously. There is the foreign field for the steel trust if it was so efficient, why didn't it take the business?"

"The steel trust is so inefficient that it hasn't been able even to improve the quality of its rails. In 1902 there were seventy-two railroad wrecks due to derailments. Last year there were 249 derailments. There have been 2,059 derailments, due to poor rails, in the ten years the steel trust has existed. In this most important call upon the trust for better rails, it has not made any improvements, though it has gained \$50,000,000 above a fair profit on its actual investment, since its organization."

"Even its steel wire has grown so poor that farmers have deluged the agricultural department with complaints against the quality of wire fencing."

For 25 years Marion has alternately grieved and rejoiced at news that the Erie shops were to be moved here from Gallion, to be followed shortly with a flat denial of the statement. Matters at one time progressed to a point where a number of Erie employees owning property in Gallion, went on to New York and laid their cases before the officials, pointing out the enormous amount of money they would lose in case the shops and yards were changed from Gallion to Marion, without giving them time to unload and get from under. This was several years ago. At that time it was understood that the men were advised to quietly get rid of their holdings and the matter of transferring the shops would be held open. Immediately following this conference the Erie gave out the information that the shops would remain in Gallion and that would continue to be

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## MARION MADE NEW ERIE TERMINAL--WILL BRING 200 TO 400 PEOPLE HERE

**Change long contemplated to be consummated at once—Railroad Men and Families Will Come Here From Gallion—Shops will be Moved Also is Belief.**

**Marion to be made great Point on Erie System—New Yards to be Built—Houses Already Becoming Scarce in West End--Boom For That Part of City.**

Behind the publication of a brief bulletin several days ago by the Erie, stating that after January 10, Gallion would be eliminated as a terminal for that road, and designating Marion, Kent and Dayton as divisions points, lies a world of cheerful encouragement for Marion.

The present change includes the changing of twenty-seven train crews, the superintendents of both Erie and the C. & E. divisions, the train master, chief dispatcher and their official families. This gives some small idea of what is eventually coming to Marion.

This move is considered by far-seeing local railroad men as but the forerunner of a transfer of the entire Erie terminal facilities to Marion. This is it is claimed, to include the shops and the roundhouse. Incidentally, the Erie is now spending about \$50,000 on the improvement and enlarging of the local roundhouse in the west yards. It will require much time to bring about the change contemplated, of which the changing of terminal points is simply the first move.

**Men Advised to Get Ready.**  
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